
By: **Delegate D. Davis**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2003

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Unemployment Insurance Funding Task Force**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing an Unemployment Insurance Funding Task Force;
4 providing for the membership and duties of the Task Force; providing for the
5 appointment of a chairperson of the Task Force; providing for staffing of the
6 Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain
7 compensation; authorizing a member of the Task Force to receive
8 reimbursement for certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to report to the
9 Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for
10 the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the establishment of an
11 Unemployment Insurance Funding Task Force.

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
13 MARYLAND, That:

14 (a) There is an Unemployment Insurance Funding Task Force to study
15 taxation and charging for purposes of funding the Unemployment Insurance Trust
16 Fund.

17 (b) The Task Force shall consist of the following 10 members:

18 (1) two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate;

19 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
20 the House;

21 (3) the Secretary of the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation,
22 or the Secretary's designee;

23 (4) the Secretary of the Department of Business and Economic
24 Development, or the Secretary's designee;

25 (5) a representative of the Maryland Retailers Association;

26 (6) a member of the general public;

27 (7) a representative of union labor; and

1 (8) a representative of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce.

2 (c) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall appoint
3 the member of the general public, and shall jointly designate the chairperson from
4 among the members of the Task Force.

5 (d) The Task Force shall examine:

6 (1) the fairness of the existing charging and taxation system under
7 current Maryland Unemployment Insurance law, taking into consideration the
8 impact on small, medium, and large employers across a variety of industries;

9 (2) the need for altering the current system of charging and taxation in
10 order to maintain the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund at a level sufficient to
11 ensure that benefits will be paid from the Fund; and

12 (3) the impact of changes in the national and State economies and their
13 relationship to changes in the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund.

14 (e) The Task Force shall make specific recommendations, including
15 developing draft legislation, on what steps might be taken to ensure that payments
16 into the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund remain adequate and equitable for
17 both employees and employers.

18 (f) The Department of Legislative Services, with assistance from the
19 Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, shall provide staffing for the Task
20 Force.

21 (g) A member of the Task Force may not receive compensation for serving on
22 the Task Force, but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
23 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

24 (h) On or before December 1, 2003, the Task Force shall report its findings and
25 recommendations to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government
26 Article, to the General Assembly.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
28 June 1, 2003. It shall remain effective for a period of 7 months and, at the end of
29 December 31, 2003, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act
30 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.